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CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.3/52/L.5

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Operative paragraph 15 of the draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

...

"Further requests the Secretary-General to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in the regional preparatory meetings for the Tenth Congress and the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice;"

2. The above request is related to programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and tosection 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

3. Should the draft resolution be adopted, one representative of each of the least developed countries would be invited, at the cost of the United Nations,

to attend the regional preparatory meetings in their respective region during 1999. A total of 48 representatives would be invited as follows: one from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from Western Asia, 13 from Asia and the Pacific, and 33 from Africa.

4. Total resource requirements in 1999 are estimated at full cost as follows:

Regional meeting	Number of participants from the least developed countries	Cost (US$)
Asia and Pacific (Bangkok)	13	23 400
Africa (Addis Ababa)	33	56 500
Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago)	1	2 500
Western Asia (Beirut)	1	1 300
Total	48	83 700

5. No provision of resources for the implementation of this request has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. Following a review, it was concluded that the resources proposed for the 1998-1999 biennium under section 14, Crime control, were fully committed to the implementation of the mandated activities and would not allow for the absorption of the $83,700 required for the travel cost of the representatives of the least developed countries.

6. The requirements for the participation of one representative of each of the least developed countries in the Congress itself in the year 2000 would be dealt with in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

7. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the approved programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures proposed exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through the redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities.

8. Should it not prove possible to meet the cost required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the request would have to be postponed or the activities and outputs to be carried out under section 14 foreseen for the biennium 1998-1999 would have to be reprogrammed or modified.

9. In conclusion, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.5, additional requirements of $83,700 would arise under section 14, Crime control, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.